

WALTER HAYLE WALSH

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY

J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS

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WALTER HAYLE WALSHÉ, M.D.

*A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH*

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BY

HIS REVERENT PUPIL, GRATEFUL COLLEAGUE  
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J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D., F.R.S.



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WALTER HAYLE WALSHÉ, M.D., LL.D.Edin.

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OF THE PARIS MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PHYSIOGRAPHY  
AND OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF ATHENS  
ETC. ETC. ETC.



WALTER HAYLE WALSHÉ, the son of William Walshe, a barrister of great promise who died at the early age of forty-eight, was born in Dublin on March 19, 1812. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1827, and continued to the third year of study, but did not proceed to the degree of B.A. The intention up to this time had been that his profession should be that of a barrister-at-law; but he preferred another course, and in 1830 went to Paris, whither his mother had already gone with the idea of making her permanent residence in France. From advice then given, by an old family friend, he in 1830 began the study of Oriental languages, commencing with Arabic, but after two years gave up the idea, to use his own expression, of "pushing himself in life as an Oriental linguist," although assured there was a "fine opening" in India for any one who could attain even moderate skill in the use of three or four of the current tongues. To those who knew Dr. Walshe's great classical learning, and his latest work on the "Colloquial Faculty for Languages," published in 1886, it may appear strange that one so highly gifted as he was in this particular direction, as well as in the mastery of language on its scientific side, should have relinquished this pursuit at that time, and have commenced the apparently uncongenial study of

medicine. This was in 1832, but at that time physical and biological science presented an immense attraction to young Walshe; and so he began, in October of that year, to attend the practice of Boyer and Roux at La Charité in Paris, and to dissect and follow other kindred studies in the same metropolis.

In the beginning of 1834 the most important event in his professional career occurred. It was then he became acquainted with the great Louis, and the impetus given to his mind was intensified by his devoted study in the clinique of that physician at La Pitié; and thenceforward, until the end of his long life, he never swerved from the lines laid down and illustrated by his great master. The natural inborn bias of Dr. Walshe's mind was towards strict observation and inductive reasoning; and in the school of Louis this bias was so accentuated as to develop in him an equally potent "polar" repulsion in regard of imperfectly noted facts and *à priori* reasoning of all or any kind. The great teachers "at whose feet he sat," to use his own expression, and whom he specially remembered with gratitude and admiration, were Bérard, Orfila, Dumas, Cruveilhier, Andral, de Blainville, Dubois, Velpeau, Ricord and Marjolin. He was dresser to Dupuytren for some months, and attended the extra-professional lectures of Michelet, Flourens and Arago among others. In 1835 he was elected a member of the Société Médicale d'Observation, being nominated by his friends and colleagues, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes and M. Valleix—M. Louis being president. In the August of the same year, 1835, Dr. Walshe left Paris for Edinburgh, and there became

acquainted with his uncle, the Rev. R. O. Shannon, of the Episcopal Chapel, York Place, who had for a long time been one of the most popular and socially prominent men in the "Modern Athens." To this intercourse Dr. Walshe often referred as being one of the great helps he had received in the cultivation of his literary taste. In 1836 he proceeded to the degree of M.D. in Edinburgh, and immediately after graduating, returned to Paris. M. Louis was kind in introducing him to a few English families, but Dr. Walshe felt that he was wasting time, and in 1838 came to England and commenced medical practice in a very humble manner in the north of London.

During the years 1839 and 1840 Dr. Walshe was a vigorous writer on pathology, contributing the articles on Cancer, Endosteitis, Cephalhæmatoma, Ectopiæ, Emphysema (surgical), Empyema and Thoracic Fistula to Costello's "Cyclopædia of Surgery"; and, but several years later, the very remarkable paper on Adventitious Products to Dr. Todd's "Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology." The article on Cancer was written in 1840, and was the foundation of his important and quite classical work "On the Nature and Treatment of Cancer," published separately in 1846. In the preface to this book Dr. Walshe refers to the "flattering reception with which the article on Cancer in the 'Cyclopædia of Surgery' was honoured by the profession," and to the fact that in 1844 Dr. Mason Warren, of Boston, produced an American edition of it as a separate book.

It was doubtless in consequence of the high distinction



as a pathologist obtained by Dr. Walshe, as the author of these masterly papers, that the Council of University College in 1841 elected him, in succession to the late Sir R. Carswell, as their Professor of Morbid Anatomy, an office which he held during the following eight years, when he succeeded the late Dr. John Taylor as Special (Holme) Professor of Clinical Medicine. The duties of this office were those of minute personal instruction of the students in the wards of the hospital, and the delivery of clinical lectures. Those were very high days in University College and its hospital. The colleagues of Dr. Walshe in the Faculty of Medicine were Lindley, Grant, Graham, Fownes, Quain, Sharpey, C. J. B. Williams, A. T. Thomson, Ellis, S. Cooper and Liston; while in the Faculty of Arts, in which he always took a most lively interest, were Augustus de Morgan, H. Malden, George Long, T. H. Key, R. Potter, R. G. Latham, Tom Taylor, Merlet, Creasy, Donaldson, Hurwitz and many others. The active professional career of Dr. Walshe was so closely associated with the years of his connection with University College from 1841 to 1862 that it would be well to complete this part of that history here rather than interpolate with it the various contributions made to literature in their chronological order. When in session 1846-47 Dr. Walshe became Special Professor of Clinical Medicine, he was elected physician to the hospital, and as such continued until 1861-62, when, upon retirement from active duty, he was elected Consulting Physician and Emeritus Professor of Medicine

and Clinical Medicine. In 1848, upon the resignation of Dr. C. J. B. Williams, Dr. Walshe was appointed Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, an office which he held with great distinction and success during fourteen years. On commencing this course of Lectures Dr. Walshe delivered an introductory address on "The Logical Applications of Physiology to Pathology," to which further reference will be made. Throughout this time he delivered regularly very important "clinical" lectures, in addition to those of the "systematic course"; and it is by many of these, as well as by much systematic writing, that his work will be best remembered. In the three professorships he had filled he was succeeded by Sir William Jenner, who had previously attended his lectures on Morbid Anatomy, and who writes in warm terms of the ability and clearness of his teaching, both in the College and in the Hospital Wards. (*Lancet*, December 31, 1892.) In mentioning this illustrious Physician it seems a fitting place in which to mention some others of his colleagues—viz., Edmund Parkes, Sir A. Garrod, C. J. Hare, Wilson Fox,\* Maudsley,\* Russell Reynolds,\* J. E. Erichsen, John Marshall, Burdon-Sanderson, Alexander Williamson, George Harley, Graily Hewitt,\* Michael Foster,\* Charlton Bastian,\* Sir Henry Thompson,\* and Wharton Jones; while in the Faculty of Arts there were Farinelli, Croom Robertson, Masson, John Seeley, Hirst, and others. These names<sup>1</sup> are selected from the large list of contemporary professors

<sup>1</sup> Those distinguished by an asterisk were previously pupils of Dr. Walshe.

because, from the writer's personal knowledge, each of them entertained a very high regard for their distinguished colleague.

As a professor both in the "clinical" and "systematic" courses, it is difficult to imagine any one more highly gifted than was Dr. Walshe. He was profoundly and accurately learned in the literature of every subject upon which he spoke, and upon the cognate subjects of more specifically scientific processes which could throw any light upon his subject matter. He arranged all his work with the most rigidly logical precision; and every individual lecture furnished a separate and complete model of scientific carefulness. His power of classification was remarkable for its breadth, lucidity, and minute appreciation of details. His method of valuing facts was essentially "the numerical"; his mode of arriving at conclusions was "per viam exclusionis." He handled theories, bygone doctrines, present fancies and working hypotheses with equal ease; placed them either side by side, in sequence, or face to face with facts, as the need might be; brought out their value, often not fully seen before, or destroyed them with a relentless energy whenever they were fit only for destruction; and on those ten fingers, which seemed all alive with redundant energy, enumerated point by point achieved, until the members of his class used often to look at one another with an expression of amazement, when he had arrived at his conclusion, that what before had seemed so vast, so complicated, so obscure, so misrepresented, so hard and so well-nigh impossible to understand, could be so



robbed of gaudy clothes, stripped bare of all misconception, and made so clear and simple as it now was, by the apparently easily-used magic of their great teacher's mind. His language was well chosen, his delivery remarkably rapid, fluent, precise, and yet easy to follow; he was often rhetorical, and when he chose highly eloquent; but in ordinary lectures he was instructive by his great learning, convincing by his vigorous logic, and fascinating by the beauty of his style and the obvious earnestness of his conviction.

At the bedside he was most precise and methodical, and gave all his powers to the accurate observation and record of facts. The history of each case was "taken" by his clinical clerks under the direction of his house physician, and this being read to him the "present state" was dictated by himself, and taken down, then and there, in the ward-book. This was done always, and also in his own notes of private cases, according to the scheme drawn up by the "London Medical Society of Observation," under the title of "What to Observe." To this Society reference will be made hereafter. The notes were long and elaborate as a rule, but sometimes they were amusingly short—*e.g.*, after for many minutes endeavouring to ascertain from a somewhat confused man, who could articulate easily enough and apparently quite intentionally, but who could not put out his tongue, although he said he could, Dr. Walshe summed up thus: "When asked if he can put out his tongue, says he can, but he can't"—a terse phrase, the last six words of which became a favourite expression among some

members of his class to describe other conditions where performance did not equal promise. It may be true that sometimes Dr. Walshe's protracted investigation may have proved tiring to a patient or to some so-called "students" who were trying to "catch" a knowledge of medicine as they might perchance have "caught" measles in the ward ; but the patient was always handled with such kindness and delicate consideration by the master that the common impression was one of gratitude for his abundant care, while the earnest worker was always sorry when the last word was uttered, and only because there were no more to follow.

During this period of constant activity in teaching Dr. Walshe was physician also to the Brompton Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, and wrote largely on scientific and practical subjects, with marked learning, skill, and acceptance. He translated a "Course of Lectures on the Blood," by Magendie, which were published in *The Lancet*, and also the immortal work of Louis, viz., his "Researches on Phthisis." This was brought out in 1844 by the Sydenham Society. In the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review* he wrote many critical articles and original papers. The Review was edited at that time by Sir John Forbes, and Dr. Walshe was one of its chief contributors. Among his colleagues were Dr. Carpenter, Wharton Jones, Dr. Laycock, and Sir James Paget. One of his papers is, or ought to be, familiar to every earnest student—viz., the Report produced in 1849 on Pulmonary Phthisis as observed at the Hospital for Consumption. It is based entirely upon

facts, estimated numerically, with some forty-four propositions arrived at by strict induction. The most generally interesting of these conclusions, and perhaps the most unexpected, were those which related to the heredity of phthisis and the laws of hæmoptysis. His small but at the same time exhaustive book on the "Physical Diagnosis of Diseases of the Lungs," published in 1843, was the text-book for students not only in University College but in the other schools of the metropolis. Nothing so compact, so well informed, or so precise had appeared before, and although it was expanded afterwards into a much larger book, containing many other aims, it yet remains as a model of condensed knowledge and of perspicacity in its application. His treatise on "Diseases of the Lungs," which grew out of the smaller book just mentioned, has passed into its fourth edition, the last being carefully revised and enriched by the author in 1875. This work has been translated into French and Danish. His other equally important work on "Diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels" also passed to its fourth edition in 1873, and has been deservedly held to be one of the most careful and elaborate epitomes of knowledge on the matters with which it deals. These two books were published in one volume originally, but were subsequently separated by their author, as the contents of each became increased by the progress of science.

But Dr. Walshe did much more than these things; he published a "Course of Clinical Lectures," and contributed largely to the journals of the day. He was one of the earliest to furnish an account of "Movable Kidney,"

1843, while in 1849 he delivered, as an Introductory Lecture to the course of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, the remarkable paper, to which reference has been already made (p. 9), "On the Logical Application of Physiology to Pathology."

The argument of this Lecture was to the effect that no scientific interpretation or forecast of the phenomena of Disease could be obtained by a knowledge of the structure, or functions, of organs when in Health; and that Physiology could only be considered as available for the purposes of Pathology, by "supplying a standard of comparison, and as suggestive of plans and measures, observant or experimental, for investigating pathological conditions." This argument is carried out with marvellous skill and care in detail, enlivened here and there with epigrammatic points, such as this: "reflecting upon these mysteries, are we not reminded of the poet's phrase, 'Truth is strange, stranger than fiction!' Yes, gentlemen, laws as observed, are stranger than principles as imagined; the realities of pathology are stranger than its romance." Or, again, an established law, "which henceforth constitutes an element of the science of physiological chemistry, may, or may not, hold in regard of those actions when diseased. It is for observation to determine this. The physiological law is merely a *candidate for a place* in the science of pathology, to be accorded or denied it by observation. Applied directly from physiology to pathology, it degenerates from a law into an hypothesis; and no hypothesis can ever form actual part of a science. On the other hand hypotheses



are never to be disdained; like servants, of whose character we are doubtful, they are to be taken on trial. Of hypotheses I would say, *accept none; reject none; try all*—provided only they do not distinctly clash with any absolute law of natural or abstract science.”

The conclusion of the Lecture is, in the opinion of the writer, so exact an expression of the mind and work of its distinguished author that he is sure many will read it with profound interest, and so it is quoted in full.

“But, whatever my views, I do not the less entertain personal regard and esteem for men who, urged by other views, conscientiously acquired, labour, in accordance with these, to widen the confines of our science and our art. Somewhat as, in the moral world, we visit with our reprobation the crime rather than the criminal; so, in the intellectual, we may denounce what we conceive to be false in logic, while we cherish him whom we hold to be a pseudo-logician. In this spirit I hope myself to be judged. So long as we are all animated with the love of, and yearning after, truth; so long as we spare no toil to achieve it, our feeling for each other can be none other than of mutual regard and good brotherhood. No matter how different the paths which the various qualities of our minds, our physical constitutions, and contingent circumstances may lead us to pursue, we then all agree in this—we are toilers after truth for the benefit of mankind. It is this very toiling after truth (the aspiration even more than the possession) that gives the stamp of dignity to our pursuit, and elevates the medical profession in the scale of humanity.

“ And herein lies one of the noblest attractions to that profession—an attraction as little tainted with selfishness (at least of a low order) as, perhaps, any human motive. It is a profession on which worldly honours and lucrative posts are not showered. It is a profession to which even the homage of lay respect is not uniformly conceded; men of education, men holding seats in the senate of the land, are found to utter scoffing platitudes at our expense, because, forsooth, we are not omniscient—the senatorial benches they are in the habit of frequenting doubtless teeming in the quality! Charlatanism, decked gorgeously in its unholy spoils, walks abroad in mockery of our science, and there is none to say it nay. . . .

“ Well, be it so! Notwithstanding all this, pursue the even tenour of your way, unruffled by these crosses. Dwell on the memory of that brighter side of the picture I a moment since held before you. Remember, too, you have the reward of moral distinction, and of scientific reputation, it may be fame, within your reach. Scarce shall your toil have added a new fact or a new inference to our science, before it goes forth to the ends of the earth, and your names may be marked *ἐυεργετης* in furthest regions. Your labour has borne fruit for the benefit of universal man, ‘no matter what colour an Indian or an African sun may have burned upon him’; your labour has united the families of the earth in the link of common obligation. Brilliant and soul-stirring reward!

“ That remarkable man whose posthumous memoirs are now appearing (1849) clothed in a mystical solemnity

according with their fabled place of issue, 'beyond the tomb'—he who passed through well-nigh every grade of social condition, at one time a vagrant outcast, at another ambassador from his own to the chief courts of Europe, and who, in his experience of the affections and passions, the vanities and ambitions, struck every chord of the lyre—Chateaubriand, I mean—tells mankind that life offers but two real goods, religion and love. Yet would I plead for the reality of another, and that other not beyond *your* grasp—the steadfast pursuit of true knowledge, and, through this, the ennobling consciousness of effort to aid in fulfilling the mission assigned your profession by the immortal Descartes, when he said: 'If the human species can be rendered perfect, the means of that perfection are to be sought for in Medical Science'."<sup>1</sup>

In 1850 Dr. Walshe, in conjunction with Dr. (now Sir William) Jenner, Dr. Parkes, Dr. Snow Beck, Dr. Hare, and Dr. (now Sir E.) Sieveking, founded "The London Medical Society of Observation," on the model of the Société Médicale d'Observation of Paris already alluded to (pp. 6 and 11); and of this Society he was the President from its inception to the suspension of its meetings.

Its objects were to promote the advancement of Pathology, and Therapeutics, by clinical and allied investigations, the value of which should be estimated by the numerical method. The number of ordinary

<sup>1</sup> The phrase runs in the original: "Si l'espèce humaine peut être perfectionnée, c'est dans la Médecine, qu'il faut en chercher les moyens."—*Medical Times and Gazette*, 1849.'

members was limited to twenty-five. The Society pursued its objects (1) by the collection of records of cases observed by the members, and noted in writing at the moment of observation; and (2) by the accumulation of observations of special phenomena of disease, and the relations subsisting between them, with a view of ascertaining their regulating laws.

The meetings of the Society were held twice in the month, at the houses of the ordinary members, in rotation. At these meetings each member could address to the author of these cases, &c., queries, having for their object the elucidation of facts, obscurely or insufficiently described; but discussions on general subjects were avoided.

In 1852-1854 the Society had, among its members, in addition to those already mentioned, Stuart, Sibson, Garrod, Sankey, Ballard, Beale, Weber, Handfield Jones, G. Johnson, Russell Reynolds, Gibbon, Armitage, Radcliffe, W. Squire, Wilson Fox, Burdon Sanderson, Hillier and others. In 1852 there was published, under its authority, a small book with the title "What to Observe at the Bedside and after Death in Medical Cases" (pp. 136, 12mo). This was produced for the purpose of lightening the labour of its members, by proposing a scheme by the adoption of which the records of cases were arranged on a uniform plan. The Society adopted, with some modifications, a form of arrangement which had been framed by Dr. Walshe; the supervision of the whole being entrusted to Dr. Ballard. This book rapidly passed to a second, and somewhat enlarged, edition



published in 1854, and was habitually used by Members of the Society and others.

For many years the Society went on with its work, then limited, so far as 'cases' were concerned, to diseases of the nervous system; and its meetings were both instructive and interesting. But, as time went on, it was found by the members, they had exhausted their capital of cases, and that their current income, of which such reports as the Society commanded could be supplied, was not sufficient to supply the demand of the bi-monthly meetings; and often, when the Members had assembled, there was no case to be read. The result of this was that, after strong but fruitless efforts at re-invigoration, it was resolved that no further meetings should be held until there was furnished some material of such sort that the Society should be summoned to receive it. Up to the present day such summons has not been issued, nor is it likely it will be; for the cases—most accurately recorded as the majority of them are—would be now interesting mainly from their personal and historic character. They were written before the days of present localisation of function in the nervous centres; before the clinical thermometer was other than a novelty; before the sphygmograph or cardiograph were invented; before the ophthalmoscope or laryngoscope were applied in the discrimination of cerebral or nervous phenomena; and before electricity and galvanism were understood, except in the most rudimentary manner, in either the diagnosis or treatment of disease. The President of the Society

felt that the time was come for the suspension of its meetings; the advance of science had been so great, and the work of the Society so small, there was no other course to be taken then with regard to its future.

In 1858, Dr. Walshe delivered another "Introductory Lecture," in University College, entitled "A Passing Glance at Human Progress"; but it is, in reality, an elaborate and learned essay on that subject, and concludes with a confirmation, from history, of the celebrated saying of Des Cartes with which his earlier Lecture ended.

In 1862, at the meeting of the British Medical Association in London, Dr. Walshe delivered the Address in Medicine, which certainly is one of the ablest among the many very able addresses with which that Association has been honoured. Especial attention should be paid to the very lucid and eloquent passages in which the author, as a "scientific" witness, throws back upon the "legal" profession a *tu quoque* reply to the charge of "differences among doctors," as though this were a specialty of their profession. In 1871 he produced a paper in *The Lancet* on the fallacy of supposing that bad "health" increases the tendency to catch "acute specific fevers," and other contributions on allied questions teemed from his polished pen. At this time, too, his consulting practice was very large, and he was often seen in Courts of Law, in the great cases of disputed testamentary capacity, or of claims for compensation in cases of railway accident. His early legal training made him a most careful and effective witness. In his separately published books and in his numerous lectures and contributions to journals,

these things may be fairly said as indications of his "originality." He was the first to detail accurately the anatomy of cephalhæmatoma and of movable kidney. He was very early in pointing out the influence of existing diathetic diseases on the course of acute specific diseases—*e.g.*, Bright's disease on typhoid fever, &c. He was an early, if not the first, exponent of the idea that Bright's disease was not a disease of the kidney but of the blood primarily,<sup>1</sup> a view now so fully illustrated by the late Drs. Basham, Wilson Fox and others, that it is really hard to believe how original the idea seemed at the time of its enunciation. He was very strongly of opinion that "the pitch of tone" elicited by percussion was the governing factor in estimating the value of variations in "dulness." This may not possibly be so evident to some physicians as it was to the author, whose ear was attuned to the very finest modifications of sound; but the writer, who has made hundreds of observations on this point with Dr. Walshe many years ago, is quite sure that the value was not over-estimated by him. As some people are colour-blind more or less, so others have a very indifferent appreciation of changes in the "pitch" of note.

Dr. Walshe was the first to teach in this country the fact of contracted pupil in aneurysm of the arch of the aorta, and also the occurrence of sudden death in aortic reflux. These points are fully discussed by him in the fourth edition of his work on Diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels.

<sup>1</sup> *The Lance*, 1849.

In 1880, the prizes in the Faculty of Medicine were distributed to the students of University College by Dr. Walshe, when he delivered an interesting and eloquent address on the charms, as well as the powers and limitations, of Medical Science. This was the last occasion of his appearance in public, and sixteen years had elapsed since he had spoken within those walls.

Dr. Walshe was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and LL.D. of Edinburgh, a member of the Medical Society of Observation of Paris, of the Medical Society of Copenhagen, of the Royal Medical Society of Athens, and of other learned bodies. The most recent works of Dr. Walshe have been outside medical literature, but both of them have shown wide and accurate knowledge of all the biological principles involved in their curiously interesting and instructive pages. That on "Dramatic Singing Physiologically Estimated" affords a striking illustration of the manner and degree to which a highly cultured physician might find time not only to enjoy but to analyse all the elements that contributed to his enjoyment, and by vast acquaintance with the subject of which he treats to criticise in detail every factor in the production of the musical effects to which he listened. There are few, we think, who could carry out an analysis such as his in the field he had chosen ; but still fewer who could, by any possibility, have had either the opportunities he enjoyed or the faculty for understanding what it was he enjoyed, as well as the capacity for its expression. The second book, on



“The Colloquial Faculty for Language,” with an essay on “The Nature of Genius,” is of quite exceptional ability and interest to the scientific biologist and the general reader. To read its pages is to find oneself in companionship with a man of high culture and scientific aim. Dr. Walshe’s reading was very wide and exceptionally accurate, and many of his most striking personal qualities are charmingly displayed in this choice and learned work. Pages after pages are full of thoughts and suggestions of recondite or inviting subjects he has left the reader to follow, as his bent may lead him; but all of them convey to the mind the feeling that a great master has passed away and, take him “for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.”

As a physician and consultant Dr. Walshe showed always a fineness of kindly consideration for his patient and his colleague—an outcome of his strong gentleman-like feeling and marked courtesy of demeanour. To the frankness of his manner, so well known in those of Irish origin, Dr. Walshe added the lustre conferred by a Parisian education and extended travel in the best society. His conversation was enriched by epigram and anecdote and great humour. His acquaintances were many, his intimate personal friends were few; but those who had the advantage of being within that circle always found in him perfect consideration, unfaltering and devoted kindness and affectionate personal regard. He was by nature both sceptical and cynical; but to what he did believe he clung with all his energy, and where he did trust he trusted utterly.

To conclude as we began with personal history, Dr. Walshe married, twenty-four years ago, Caroline Ellen, the youngest daughter of the late Rev. Durand Baker, Vicar of Bishop's Tawton, and sister of the late distinguished officer, General Sir Thomas Baker, Quartermaster-General of the Forces. Dr. Walshe leaves one son, now in his twenty-second year, and who, having just passed his "Responsions," is to follow out his own career in Oxford.

Some years ago Dr. Walshe expressed to the writer a wish, recently repeated and enforced in a letter directed "to be delivered immediately after his death," to the effect that he greatly desired it might be known "how deeply mortified he was by his inability to mix professionally and socially with his colleagues." The "wretched state of his health was the sole but most effective cause of his life of isolation." For years he had "been practically confined to his own fireside not only in the evenings but even in the daytime." This the writer knows to be absolutely true, and knows also that the isolation, in spite of occasional periods of active practice, dates back for more than twenty years, and was a source of great grief to his old master and friend; Dr. Walshe keenly feared that his former colleagues and associates might think his interest in old studies and pursuits had failed, but it was not really so. To almost the last he retained all his brilliant faculties and intense interest in pathology and practical medicine, and also in the affairs and ethics of his profession. He was, however, compelled by painful disease to retire from

all the scenes and discussions that would have interested him most deeply, and in which the participators would have found in him a wise and most accomplished adviser, had the discussions been in the Societies, the Schools, the Councils of his Profession, the Colleges, or the University.

In his charming book on "Dramatic Singing," after quoting Herbert Spencer's homage to the emotional power of the art, conched in the following words: "Music arouses dormant sentiments of which we had not conceived the possibility, and do not know the meaning," Walshe continues, "Spell-bound, in truth, we muse in vague indefinite dreams of something beyond and above this nether world, as melody and harmony of the higher moulds enthrall the auditory sense; in fact, a something yet deeper than the shadowing forth or the idealisation of the most trivial and of the deepest emotions, the subtlest and the most refined sentiments, the tenderest and the deepest passions." Feelings and yearnings such as are here expressed are not infrequent in his other writings, nor were they so in his conversation. His was the "Honest Doubt," in which "Faith" lives; although at times its breathing may be faint. He thirsted for perfect knowledge with a passionate longing, and sought no less earnestly for higher light. With Goethe he might say, as we know he often felt, and especially of late:

"Und mich ergreift ein längst entwöhntes Sehnen  
Nach jenem stillen, ernsten Geisterreich."

And we now, putting all the shadows of life behind us by turning to the light, must feel that such a soul—so fully attuned to every note of melody and every chord of

harmony—must, released from its painful tenement in this “nether world,” find the reality of its highest aspirations in an exalted condition of existence in some “higher world” of which the philosopher, as such, can but “dream.”

















